

## Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 INR-07 PM-04 NEA-10 NSC-05

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DRAFTED BY ISA/NA:MHAMILTON  
APPROVED BY AF:TWSEELYE  
ISA/NA:MR. REED  
DSAA:LTG. FISH  
ISA/NE:COL. THOMAS  
PM :DHESTER  
AF/C:TRBUCHANAN  
AF/C:EMARKS

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R 101935Z NOV 76  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA  
SECDEF WASHDC  
JCS WASHDC

S E C R E T STATE 276706

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:

SUBJECT: MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO ZAIRE

REF: TEHRAN 10330

1. WITH REGARD TO SHAH'S QUESTION ABOUT MEASURE OF  
UTILITY OF TEN M-60 TANKS TO GOZ (PARA THREE REFTTEL),  
YOU SHOULD APPAISE GENERAL TOUFANIAN OF THE FOLLOWING  
POINTS. IN GENERAL, TRAFFIC CABILITY WITHIN ZAIRE FOR  
TRACKED VEHICLES IS POOR. HOWEVER, TERRAIN IN CERTAIN  
KEY AREAS IS SUITABLE FOR TANKS AND SOME OF THESE  
ARE ADJACENT TO COUNTRIES THAT POSSESS COMMUNIST-PROVIDED  
TANKS. AN EXAMPLE OF THIS IS THE MINERAL RICH SHABA

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AREA WH CH IS VITAL TO ZAIRE'S ECONOMIC HEALTH. THE  
TEN TANKS SOUGHT FROM IRAN WOULD BE THE FIRST INCREMENT

OF A MODEST TANK FORCE WHOSE EXACT SIZE IS TO BE DEFINED AFTER FURTHER SURVEYS. THESE TANKS WOULD INITIALLY BE USED TO TRAIN THE CADRE FOR PLANNED ARMORED UNITS BUT WOULD ALSO IMMEDIATELY PROVIDE A LIMITED TANK CAPABILITY IN AN EMERGENCY SITUATION. LATER, THE TANKS WOULD BE INTEGRATED INTO THE MODERNIZED ZAIRIAN FORCE STRUCTURE. THE TOTAL MILITARY MODERNIZATION PROGRAM ENVISIONS FOR GOZ A

MECHANIZED INFANTRY FORCE, POSSIBLY A ZAIRIAN DIVISION, (APPROXIMATELY 10,000 PERSONNEL) PLUS UPGRADED AIR DEFENSE AND NAVAL CAPABILITIES. THE SPECIFIC NATURE OF TOTAL PROGRAM IS DEPENDENT UPON GOZ DECISIONS NOT YET TAKEN. NEVERTHELESS, PRESIDENT MOBUTU HAS STRONG INTEREST IN TANKS NOW.

2. AS PART OF THIS PROGRAM WE WOULD LIKE TO DELIVER THREE TANKS IN APPROXIMATELY 12 MONTHS AND THE REMAINING SEVEN TANKS TWELVE MONTHS LATER. WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT TOUFANIAN NOW HAS FAVORABLE INFORMATION ON AVAILABILITY OF M-60A1 TANKS FROM 11GF.

3. BOTH THE AVAILABILITY OF TANKS AND ZAIRE'S ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES PRESENT PROBLEMS. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF GOI COULD PROVIDE TANKS TO GOZ AS GRANT. THIS WOULD BE THE STRONGEST INDICATION OF GOI SUPPORT TO A MODERATE AFRICAN GOVERNMENT THAT SUPPORTS MUTUAL GOI/USG INTERESTS. IF TOUFANIAN INDICATES TANKS ARE AVAILABLE, RAISE THIS POSSIBILITY WITH HIM. IF GOI IS SET ON ALTERNATIVE OF TRANSFERRING TANKS TO USG FOR PROVISION TO GOZ, WE NEED CLARIFICATION OF WHAT GOI WOULD EXPECT FROM USG. SCHEDULED TANK PRODUCTION IS CURRENTLY COMMITTED FOR NEXT FEW YEARS. IN SUM, WE NEED EXPLANATION OF WHAT IS MEANT BY "GOI WOULD THEN LOOK TO GETTING TEN REPLACEMENT TANKS FROM US".

4. WE ARE TO DISCUSS MODERNIZATION PROGRAM WITH ZAIRIANS ON 18-19 NOVEMBER. PLEASE OBTAIN READING FROM GOI ON POINTS RAISED PARA 3, SOONEST. KISSINGER

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NOTE BY OC/T: DISSEMINATION COORDINATED WITH S/S-O  
MR. OTTO, 11/11/76.

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## Message Attributes

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